

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Francois Mignard

Application No.: 10/790,712

Confirmation No.: 4299

Filed: March 3, 2004

Art Unit: 1742

For: PROCESS FOR THE CONTROLLED
OXIDATION OF A STRIP BEFORE
CONTINUOUS GALVANIZING, AND
GALVANIZING LINE

Examiner: Zheng, Lois L.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed November 28, 2006, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I directed to claims 1 - 6, drawn to a process, for continued examination.

The Examiner has required restriction between Group I (claims 1-6, drawn to a process) and Group II (claims 7-12, drawn to an apparatus).

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to claims 7-12 at a later date if so desired.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21029-00272-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By /Morris Liss/

Morris Liss

Registration No.: 24,510

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant